

CLAIMS

1. Blowing agent mixture based on fluorinated hydrocarbons and the usual auxiliaries and additives, characterized in that the inert gas content, measured in the vapour phase of the blowing agent or blowing agent mixture, is not more than 1.5 % by volume.
2. Blowing agent mixture according to Claim 1, characterized in that the inert gas content, measured in the vapour phase of the blowing agent or blowing agent mixture, is 0.1 to 0.8 % by volume.
3. Blowing agent mixture according to Claim 1, characterized in that the inert gas content, measured in the vapour phase of the blowing agent or blowing agent mixture, is 0.1 to 0.6 % by volume.
4. Blowing agent mixture according to Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the inert gases are air or nitrogen.
5. Blowing agent mixture according to Claim 1 to 4, characterized in that the blowing agent mixture contains as fluorinated hydrocarbons at least one blowing agent from the group comprising difluoromethane; difluoroethane, preferably 1, 1-difluoroethane; tetrafluoroethane, preferably 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane; pentafluoropropane, preferably 1,1,1,3,3-pentafluoropropane; pentafluorobutane, preferably 1,1,1,3,3-pentafluorobutane; hexafluoropropane, preferably 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoropropane; heptafluoropropane, preferably 1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane.
6. Blowing agent mixture according to Claim 1 to 5, characterized in that the blowing agent mixture contains 1,1-difluoroethane or 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane.
7. Blowing agent mixture according to Claim 6, characterized in that it comprises a mixture of 1,1-difluoroethane and 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane wherein the content of 1,1-difluoroethane is from 30% to 70 by weight relative to the total content of 1,1-difluoroethane and 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane.

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8. Blowing agent mixture according to Claim 6, characterized in that the fluorinated hydrocarbon consists essentially of 1,1-difluoroethane.

9. Blowing agent mixture according to Claim 1 to 5 which contains in addition at least one alcohol, in particular ethanol.

5        10. Process for the manufacture of thermoplastic foams, especially polystyrene foams, by extrusion, characterized in that a blowing agent mixture according to Claim 1 to 6 is used.